

30.6.97 and pending on 1.7.97 are as follows:—

Category	No. of Claims registered	No. of cases adjudicated	Pending
Death	15,310	15,132	178
Injury	5,97,306	4,25,114	1,72,292

The claims are adjudicated by the special courts set up under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985. In addition to the 15,310 compensation claims for deaths registered during the 5-year period 1985-89, another 6,821 compensation claims relating to deaths have been filed in the courts consequent upon the notification issued on 2nd December, 1996 inviting claims from those who may not have filed claims earlier.

[English]

Smuggling of Children

1089. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons were arrested in recent months at Indira Gandhi International Airport who were trying to send some children to Sharjah for camel racing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to stop this racket making India as conduit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Delhi Police have reported that no such incident took place at Indira Gandhi International Airport during the year 1997.

Production of Floriculture

1090. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the floriculture industry has been flourishing in the country;

(b) if so, whether it has not made much progress in each State;

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the production of floriculture in each State; and

(d) the total hectares of land proposed to be brought under the floriculture during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The floriculture industry has registered considerable growth in the recent past in all the States.

(c) For development of floriculture in the States, Government of India is implementing a central sector scheme on commercial floriculture. The major components of this scheme are area expansion, supply of quality planting material and technical know-how through Model Floriculture Centre, Tissue culture laboratories and training.

(d) The Working Group on Horticulture Development for the formulation of IX Plan has estimated that 40,000 hectares of land may be brought under floriculture during the IX Plan period.

Cases of Misappropriation of Rice

1091. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recent months cases of non-delivery or short delivery during the course of transportation of rice from Haryana and Punjab arranged by FCI to the States have been detected in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the delinquent FCI officials and private transporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Food Corporation of India recently detected a case wherein two transport contractors, appointed for transporting foodgrains namely M/s Gautam Associates, Mohali and M/s Yajen Aier & Co., Pehowa had not delivered 4368 MT and 1543 MT of rice worth Rs. 4.25 crores, lifted by them for transportation ex-Kaithal and Pehowa respectively to Imphal (Manipur).

(c) On the basis of preliminary investigations the Food Corporation of India has placed under suspension its one District Manager and 6 Assistant Managers. F.I.R. has been lodged against the defaulting contractors for misappropriation of foodgrains. With the approval of the Government, the FCI has referred the case to Central Bureau of Investigations on 14.7.1997 for detailed investigations and retrieval of misappropriated rice.